



I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: 1-21-04 Signature: Diane Bergin  
(Diane Bergin)

Docket No.: 41394-00009USPT  
(PATENT)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:  
John R. Hampton, et al.

Application No.: 09/887392

Art Unit: 1724

Filed: June 22, 2001

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: FILTER ELEMENT ISOLATION BARRIER

**AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**

In response to the Office Action dated November 25, 2003, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 10 of this paper.